

MOTION BY MAYOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

JULY 14, 2015

AMENDMENT ITEM #44

The County recognizes that significant efforts are currently underway on both the federal and state levels to increase the production of energy from renewable sources. The Renewable Energy Ordinance will establish regulations and permit requirements that support and facilitate the responsible development of small-scale renewable energy systems and utility-scale renewable energy facilities that protect public health, safety, and minimize significant environmental impacts.

Since 2010 utility-scale solar and wind facilities have been proposed within the County, and specifically within the Antelope Valley. Eleven applications for solar projects have been approved in the Antelope Valley, including the 2,100 acre Antelope Valley Solar Ranch and the 3,200 acre MidAmerican Solar project. However, there has been significant opposition from Antelope Valley residents to utility-scale wind turbines, some of which can reach heights of 500 feet. Wind turbines create visual blight and contradict the County's Rural Outdoor Lighting District Ordinance, which aims to protect dark skies in areas like the Antelope Valley and the Santa Monica Mountains. Last week, the Endangered Habitats League sent the County a letter stating that wind turbines "pose unavoidable risks to birds and bats flying into the moving blades". My office also met with representatives from Edwards Air Force Base and Defense Contractors operating in Plant 42; both said that wind turbines disrupt flight and weapon test ranges and will negatively affect research operations.

Generating renewable energy is important and Antelope Valley residents have dealt with the negative effects of solar field development including dust generation, noise and thousands of acres of visual blight. However, wind turbines are inappropriate and should be banned.

- M O R E -

MOTION

SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Close the public hearing.
2. Certify Final EIR and adopt Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations as recommended in the board letter.
3. Indicate the intent to approve the Ordinance (Advance Planning No. 2014-00004), as recommended by the Regional Planning Commission (RPC), and with the additional changes as recommended by staff after the Commission hearing, including a ban on utility-scale wind energy.
4. Instruct County Counsel to prepare the final ordinance and bring it back to the Board for your consideration.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Health to report back to the Board in 60 days on procedures for requiring soil testing for Valley Fever as part of utility-scale renewable energy projects.

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